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The Best of Sac State

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The Best of Sac State

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FEATURED SOCIAL MEDIA



On a post about the Westboro Baptist Church visiting Sacramento State to protest University support of LGBTQ individuals, Facebook user Nico Pontz commented, "But where are they going to park?" Check out the latest stories and share your thoughts at Facebook.com/StateHornet.



On a day recognized by many as a commemorative Star Wars "holiday," Sac State gave "May the Fourth be with you" new meaning on campus, playing bells at the top of every hour to the tune of the film's iconic theme. Follow @TheStateHornet for more live updates of news and events on campus.



Last week, the Sacramento SPCA and Active Minds collaborated to bring therapy dogs — and one rabbit — to campus for students to relieve stress before finals. Follow @StateHornet for stories, videos and photos of life on campus.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PARKING STRUCTURE V DELAYED AGAIN: Parking Structure V has been delayed again due to issues related to water pressure flow, according to an email sent by the University. The email said the school is waiting for final approval from the Office of the State Fire Marshal to determine the opening date of the structure. While that is waiting to open, the surface parking lot accessible from Bay Laurel and State University Drive will be open for faculty and staff next to the unopened structure. While that surface lot will open, a main road will no longer be available, according to the email.

To stay up to date with news, go to statehornet.com/news

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CORRECTIONS

In Volume 72, Issue 28 of The State Hornet, the following correction is listed:

On pages 4, 8 and 14, State Hornet staff member Corina Gutierrez's name is mispelled as "Corrina."

We deeply regret this error.

ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE HORNET AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE SACRAMENTO STATE JOURNALISM PROGRAM, THE COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES DEPARTMENT, ADMINISTRATION, STUDENT BODY OR SQE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE STATE HORNET IS COPYRIGHTED AND CANNOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR PART WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE STATE HORNET. READERS WHO NOTICE AN ERROR IN THE STATE HORNET MAY SEND CORRECTIONS TO **EDITOR@STATEHORNET.COM.** FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT **ADS@STATEHORNET.COM**

WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH COMES TO CAMPUS

STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF MARCH AND STAGE COUNTER-PROTEST

Claire Morgan
@jemapelleclaire



VINCENT MOLESKI - The State Hornet

Liam Worrell-Olson, right, makes a heart with his hands while standing in front of picketers from the Westboro Baptist Church, who protested at the J Street entrance to Sac State on Tuesday, May 8. The Westboro Baptist Church is a Kansas-based Christian fundamentalist group known for its inflammatory anti-LGBT speech.

More than 100 counter-protesters gathered in the Library Quad to protest the presence of members of the Westboro Baptist Church, who picketed at the J street entrance of Sacramento State for 30 minutes on Tuesday over the University's resources for LGBTQ students.

At the forefront of the protest was Shirley Phelps-Roper — the daughter of Westboro Baptist Church founder Fred Phelps — who held signs and sang.

Rachel Hockenbarger, who joined Phelps-Roper at the protest, said that Sac State was one of several stops in Sacramento they intended to make, focusing on places she said had "proud sinners," including Mira Loma High School and Rocklin Academy Gateway, an elementary school.

When asked why she chose to visit Sac State, Hockenbarger said it was "Because you are the luckiest humans on the planet. Because this is where God sent us."

In a campus-wide email Monday morning, Sac State President Robert Nelsen said that the messages spread by the Westboro Baptist Church are "personally abhorrent."

"The vile, hate-filled, bigoted messages that we have seen espoused by members of this group are to me personally abhorrent. Those messages do not reflect the values of Sacramento State," Nelsen wrote. "Nonetheless, Sacramento State is a public university, and our campus is public space. Our values include the right to free speech."

Students, faculty members, and administrators arrived in the Library Quad at roughly 1:30 p.m. to counter-protest. Many said that their reason for showing up was to support the LGBTQ community.

Sac State student Liam Worrell-Olson was among those in the counter-protest. Worrell-Olson held signs that read "Not today, Fred," referring to the founder of the Westboro Baptist Church, Fred Phelps.

"I disagree with their message," Worrell-Olson said. "They're intolerant. We have to come out here."

Worrell-Olson, who photobombed a few photos of the Westboro Baptists by stepping into frame and making a heart with his hands, said that although they are free to express their message, "a tolerant society cannot be tolerant of intolerance."

Sac State student Miles Meckle said that his goal was to block the Westboro Baptist Church's message.

"We're about tolerance here at Sacramento State, we're about diversity, we're about inclusion and we're not about hindering these people against tolerance," Meckle said. "Today we're here to stand and block their message, from getting their message out and show them that tolerance is the key to getting along."

Nelsen was at the counter-protest in the Library Quad, where he got a heart and rainbow flag painted on his face and posed with students for photos.

"The importance of today is that we show strength and we show solidarity," Nelsen said. "We are a Hornet family, and we support each other, that we have love on this campus, and we have acceptance, and we are a caring campus."

Nelsen said that there were "30,816 reasons" as to why he felt the need to be present at the counter-protest.

"There's 30,816 students here," Nelsen said. "I want to support each and every one of those students."

When asked about the apparent conflict between condemning the Westboro Baptist Church and awarding the president of Ghana — where homosexuality is illegal and LGBTQ people often face violent attacks — less than two weeks ago, Nelsen said he had a "frank conversation" with him.

"I expressed my concerns about what was happening in that country and what we stand for as Sac State and a Hornet family," Nelsen said. "We had a very difficult discussion but it was a good discussion, I think he understands better what Sac State is and what we stand for."

Additional reporting by Vincent Moleski, Thomas Frey, Alex Daniels, Robby Sanchez and Will Coburn



Photo courtesy of the California State University

Sacramento Chief of Police Daniel Hahn will not be attending a banquet at Sacramento State where he was originally going to be honored. The Sacramento Police Department has been under scrutiny following the fatal shooting of Stephon Clark, an unarmed black man, in March.

Chief of Police backs out of awards banquet

DECISION MADE TO 'AVOID DISRUPTING THE CAMPUS'

Thomas Frey
@ThomasFreyRP

Sacramento Chief of Police Daniel Hahn will not attend the May 9 awards banquet where he was to be honored by Sacramento State's College of Business Administration.

Hahn has received push back from the community in wake of the killing of 22-year-old Stephon Clark by police on March 18. There are currently no plans at this time to continue honoring him, according to Sacramento State Director of News and Communications Brian Blomster.

A statement released by Sacramento State states "The decision was made jointly between Chief Hahn and President Robert S. Nelsen in order to avoid disrupting the campus and to allow Chief Hahn, a respected Sac State alumnus, to devote his time to important matters following the fatal shooting of Stephon Clark."

The Sacramento Police Department has been under pressure since Clark — an unarmed black man — was shot and killed by police on March 18.

Rallies and protests followed for weeks after the shooting. Sac State alum Oscar Martinez called for Sac State to not honor Hahn until the officers responsible were terminated and he asked for the Sacramento Police Department to implement mandatory race training courses for all of its officers.



CALEB DANIELSON - The State Hornet

Police examine the scene of the wreck where a stolen van crashed into two parked cars in Parking Structure I. The driver got out and hid underneath a car before being apprehended, according to police.

POLICE PURSUIT ENDS ON CAMPUS AS STOLEN VEHICLE CRASHES IN PS I

Caleb Danielson
@caleb_danielson

A woman was arrested and transported to the hospital on Monday after she led Sacramento Police on a pursuit that ended at Parking Structure I on Sacramento State's campus.

Police were alerted that a stolen vehicle was in the area after its license plate was scanned at a nearby intersection, according to a police sergeant at the scene.

Police said they found the stolen Toyota Sienna minivan at the Home Depot on Folsom Boulevard, and the driver led officers on a short pursuit.

Sacramento Police notified University police that officers were continuing the chase on Sac State's campus, according to Sacramento State Police Sgt. John Linke.

The driver crashed into two parked cars, and then tried to hide underneath a car, according to Sacramento Police. Students told officers where she was hiding, and she was arrested, police said.

According to police, there were no serious injuries, but the driver of the stolen minivan was taken to the hospital.

The woman's name has not yet been released.

Police also said they are waiting to hear back from the driver of another car that was hit during the pursuit.

One of the parked cars that was damaged belongs to a facilities management employee, Mike Mene.

He said he just bought the pickup from one of his coworkers at the beginning of the month.

"I was getting ready to take a bite of my Togo's sandwich, then Sac Police called," Mene said.

He figured the damaged door would probably cost at least $3,500 to repair. He laughed about the situation, joking that the car is "not as aerodynamic as it used to be."

The owner of the other parked car, Mike Grover, an advancement visual communications specialist for University Advancement at Sac State, said he received a call from campus police to come to his vehicle.

His car, which was parked next to the truck, was moved out of the parking spot, into the other car.

"I just paid it off last week so it was not a good feeling," Grover said. "I feel sick to my stomach. I am meticulous about my cars so the concept of having to get this thing repaired instead of replaced is a concern. I don't want to report this to someone down the line when I decide to sell, that this was involved in a heavy collison."

Additional Reporting by Alex Daniels and Thomas Frey

BEST PROFESSOR



CORINA GUTIERREZ - The State Hornet

Professor Brian DiSarro, voted 'Best professor' in the 2018 Best of Sac State poll, is valued by his students for being 'open and down-to-earth.'

DiSarro brings 'passion' to PoliSci

Corina Gutierrez
@Corinag1311

Brian DiSarro, a political science professor and graduate coordinator at Sacramento State, has been chosen by students as "Best professor" in the 2018 Best of Sac State poll.

"I just really love the students," DiSarro said. "I get a lot of energy from working with students and being in front of the classroom, I really love the subject that I teach."

Audrey Kitchen, a government major, said she took his class in the fall for a major requirement and then this spring for an elective.

"Last semester when I took his class, some of it was hard to understand but talking to him outside of class, it became pretty simple," Kitchen said. "He's one of the nicest professors you'll ever meet, like he is genuinely nice and open minded."

DiSarro said he double-majored in both history and political science in his undergraduate studies at Eastern Connecticut State, then later continued with his graduate degree and doctorate in political science at the University of Iowa.

"I didn't really imagine I'd be a teacher before I got to college because I was always very shy as a kid. I didn't really like to draw a lot of attention to myself and I kind of blended into the background," DiSarro said. "I used to have a stutter, so it was difficult for me to talk and I was embarrassed about speaking."

DiSarro said at some point along the way, his reserved mannerisms resided and he became more comfortable because of his excitement and confidence in knowledge of the subject.

Tiffany Shook, a government major, said she has taken a total of three classes taught by DiSarro.

"You can really tell that he's passionate and knowledgeable," Shook said. "Sometimes in class, he'll relate his personal life experiences to history, which really brings the point home. Take his class, he's a great professor, you'll learn a lot and he's always available. He's also really understanding, he's just really awesome."

DiSarro said he loves sharing his knowledge but he really likes hearing his student's perspectives.

"To hear the next generation's thoughts and perspectives on things, what they think is important and what shaped them, where they want politics and society to go, it's just really interesting," DiSarro said.

Daniel Martinez, a political science major, said he also took DiSarro's class for a major requirement as well as for an elective.

"I think at heart he's still a student," Martinez said. "He's one of the best professors I've had at Sac State. He's really open and down to earth and he just provides a healthy learning environment."

Looking towards the future, DiSarro said he sees himself continuing to teach in the classroom, developing new courses as ideas arise and finding more ways to engage in student mentorship.

SAC STATE SAYS

"WHAT IS YOUR **MOST MEMORABLE** SACRAMENTO STATE MOMENT?"



*With graduation around the corner, we asked graduating seniors about their most memorable moments during their time at Sacramento State. Tell us what you think by using the hashtag **#SacStateSays** on social media.*

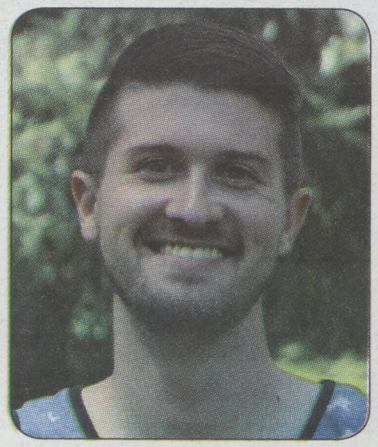
Eric Jaramishian and Kelly Kiernan
@EJaramishian
@Kkiernan98

#SacStateSays



"The Steel Bridge Club. We designed, fabricated and built a steel bridge for our competition and that is my most memorable moment because I think I learned a lot about my major and about things that are expected of me."

- Meagan Yoeono
Civil engineering



"I guess the most memorable moment here at Sac State is studying for pathogenic bacteriology with all of my friends, taking the exam, then celebrating afterward with some beers at Round Table."

- Shea Wheatley
Biological sciences



"It would have to be Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We had the walk and then the planting of the tree near The WELL. It was really cool, everyone was going toward The WELL and it was an awesome sense of unity on campus."

- Alejandra Martinez
English



"I would have to say making new friends and having this campus be such a family environment. I really came closer to the people in my major, and we suffered together to accomplish our goals of getting a bachelor's degree."

- Kelsie Krick
Art history



"Getting hired at the Children's Center, I would say that is my most memorable moment. Well, it was a group interview and she pretty much said if you got the group interview you're pretty much hired and I was like 'no way,' like I got the job I was freaking out, and it was a pretty happy day."

- Jennifer Zuniga
Communicative sciences and disorders

BEST HOUSING



STORM RAY - The State Hornet

The American River Courtyard was voted 'Best on-campus housing' in The State Hornet's 2018 Best of Sac State poll.

Students find 'community' at AMC

Storm Ray
@Storm_Ray1

The American River Courtyard was voted 'Best on-campus housing' in The State Hornet's Best of Sac State poll.

The housing is for any students who are sophomores or older, including transfer, international and graduate students.

The building consists of four floors with five different layout options.

Allison Vine, a transfer student and speech pathology major, said she chose to live at the American River Courtyard for the convenience of living on campus.

"I've already been in college but this is my first year at a university," Vine said. "I didn't know anyone coming up here either so I felt like it was a really good way to maybe meet people."

One major difference that sets the American River Courtyard apart from the other on-campus housing facilities is its apartment-style suites and options for large floor plans.

Unlike the other dorm halls, there is an option for a single occupancy room in the four and five bedroom floor plans.

The fully-furnished suites also include two full bathrooms with a shared kitchen and living area.

Second-year student Savannah Oskolkoff said that she picked the American River Courtyard because of the meal plan and the fun events it hosts.

"I was really involved (last year) in the activities the housing offers, so I wanted to be able to do that again" Oskolkoff said. "I love sitting with my blanket on the (Residence) Hall lawn and I love going to the pool."

Even though the American River Courtyard is only for sophomores and older, it is still treated as any other dorm building with resident advisers on each floor, meal plans and semesterly room checks.

According to the Sacramento State website, the American River Courtyard holds 606 students in total.

"I just feel like the AMC is more of a community," said kinesiology major Lindsay White.

Both White and Vine said that they have great relationships with their resident advisers.

"I know they have to put on programs so they'll have movie night and games nights," Vine said.

"They do have semester room checks to make sure we are like taking out our trash and keeping our room clean, and make sure we don't have things that aren't supposed to be in our room," White said.

BEST OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Price and parking make The Element a winner

Nick Koeneke
@TheKoenekeHour

Location, location, location. The Element student housing complex is located just a mile off campus and was named the 'Best off-campus' housing in the 2018 Best of Sac State survey.

Students said they liked The Element because of its reasonable affordability during their tenure at Sacramento State.

"The place is full of college students so I am close to many of my friends" said junior kinesiology major Tyler Marks. "The price is decent for the amenities that are included and I plan on re-signing in the fall."

The Element includes amenities including a pool and spa, as well as volleyball and basketball courts.

With housing prices around campus continuing to rise, floor plans start at just $675, including fully-furnished rooms providing laundry options, cable TV and parking.

With a shuttle providing transportation to campus, students living at The Element do not necessarily have to worry about hours spent looking for a parking spot or paying for a permit.

"The Element is so close to campus and with a shuttle, I don't have to worry about transportation," said Trent Howze, a third-year communication studies major. "With Target just across the street from the complex, students have a convenient shopping option close to comfort."



NICK KOENEKE - The State Hornet

The Element apartments won 'Best off-campus housing' in the 2018 Best of Sac State poll. Students cited its price and proximity to campus.



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BEST MALE ATHLETE



ALEX DANIELS - The State Hornet

Sacramento State right-handed sophomore pitcher Parker Brahms prepares to deliver the baseball to the strike zone against Santa Clara University at John Smith Field on Saturday, March 10, 2018.

BRAHMS SHOWS COMMAND ON MOUND

Alex Daniels
*@DanielsAlex_*

For the second year in a row, a baseball player has won 'Best male athlete' after Sacramento State sophomore pitcher Parker Brahms won the award in The State Hornet's second annual Best of Sac State poll.

Brahms, who follows former Sac State pitcher Justin Dillon in receiving the award, has a 4-3 record with a 2.12 ERA in just under 73 innings of work with 95 strikeouts this season.

"It's definitely an honor," Brahms said. "There are a lot of great athletes here at Sac State, so it is humbling to (win) it."

Brahms is coming off winning Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year along with being an all-WAC first-team selection. Brahms went 8-4 with a 3.13 ERA in just under 98 innings with 63 strikeouts last season.

"Working on off-speed command was my main goal (going into) this year," Brahms said. "It definitely has been showing with my change up being a little better this year from last season."

Brahms set a Sac State Division I program record twice this season with 14 strikeouts — which was previously held by Dillon in his no-hitter performance last season — in a 4-0 victory against Northern Colorado on April 13 and a 10-1 victory against Northern Colorado on Sunday at John Smith Field.

Sac State coach Reggie Christiansen said he thinks Brahms has done a lot of things the same from last year to this season, but has seen change in his strength.

"You see that a lot of times in college baseball with freshmen coming back as sophomores and being more physical," Christiansen said. "I think (Brahms') fastball velocity has been a little better and has been great for us the last two years.

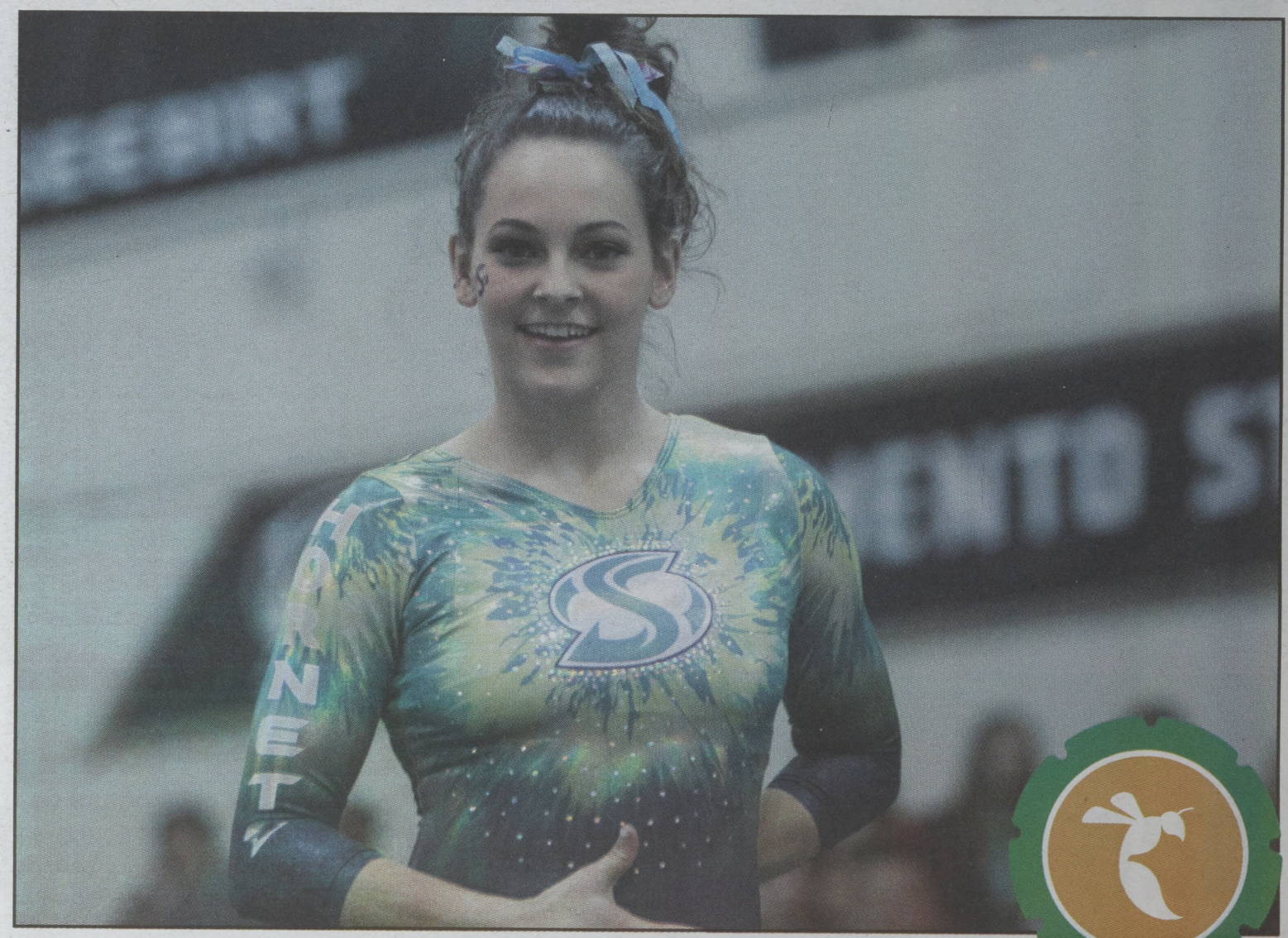
"He's consistent on his approach to the game, his work ethic has been outstanding and he is a pleasure to coach, there's no doubt about that."

BEST FEMALE ATHLETE

SENIOR GYMNAST GOES OUT ON TOP

FINALLY FREE OF INJURY, ANNIE JUAREZ WINS BEST FEMALE ATHLETE

Thomas Frey
@ThomasFreyRP



EMILY RABASTO - The State Hornet

Sacramento State senior gymnast Annie Juarez poses after competing against the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Minnesota and Cal at the Nest on Friday, March 9, 2018.

Heading into the 2018 season, senior gymnast Annie Juarez never imagined she would have a campaign that would lead her to being named 'Best female athlete' in The State Hornet's Best of Sac State poll.

Juarez came into the year never having participated in more than half of the meets in a season because of injuries that prematurely ended her campaigns.

Juarez started the season by participating in three of the four events for the first time in her career and was an all-arounder for the first time during the next week.

While struggling at first to complete all four events without a fall, Juarez didn't have a fall in six of her final eight meets en route to qualifying for her first trip to an NCAA Regional at the University of Utah.

"I'd probably have laughed (if you told me how good I'd do this year) especially at the beginning of the season," Juarez said. "I was so nervous."

Just a year before, Juarez had nearly quit gymnastics due to injuries and now was in a situation where she could perform on a stage in front of more than 10,000 fans.

In the final meet of her career, she recorded a 39.100 and even set a career high on the vault while finishing No. 13 in the all-around in the postseason.

Juarez helped the team stay together throughout the season by providing stability on all four events after injuries to Caitlin Soliwoda and Lauren Rice early in the year.

"I can't explain how proud I am of her," Courtney Soliwoda said. "She has come from nothing at all, from a surgery, some people doubted her ever coming back, to being an all-arounder. She deserves it."

She didn't know it until after the season, but Juarez said she went through the entire season with a torn shoulder labrum and would eventually have to get surgery in the future.

Since the surgery requires roughly six to nine months of rehab, she is putting off the surgery until after graduation when she will figure out where she will move to.

For now, the child development major said she would like to move to Colorado.

BEST TEAM



THOMAS FREY - The State Hornet

Sacramento State sophomore outside hitter Sarah Davis celebrates a kill during the 2017 Big Sky Conference Tournament. The Hornets won the Big Sky regular season title for the first time since 2007.

TRIO OF SENIORS LEADS VOLLEYBALL

Thomas Frey
@ThomasFreyRP

The Sacramento State volleyball team won its first Big Sky Conference regular-season title since 2007 and was voted as the "Best team" in The State Hornet's Best of Sac State poll.

Sac State coach Ruben Volta used the same starting lineup in every match and the Hornets were led by seniors Shannon Boyle (outside hitter), Brigitte Murdock (libero) and Big Sky Conference Most Valuable Player Kennedy Kurtz (setter).

The trio of seniors each set milestones and led the team to a 26-10 overall record and a 15-1 record in Big Sky play. It was the first time since 2006 that Sac State won 15 games in conference play.

The Hornets also saw contributions from a trio of juniors and a sophomore in the starting lineup. One of those juniors, outside hitter Mikaela Nocetti said that the game against the University of North Dakota on Oct. 5 was the most memorable game of the season.

The Hornets won a five-set thriller due in large part to Nocetti, who had 21 kills and 18 digs. While Sac State would eventually lose the conference tournament to North Dakota, this win put the team in the front of the pack for the regular season title.

"I remember walking into the locker room after that game and everybody was like, 'We poured our whole heart into that game' and we did everything we could," Nocetti said. "I remember (Kurtz) walking in and she was drenched in sweat, you could tell she had worked so hard and everybody was just so excited."

Another game that stuck out to Nocetti and Volta was senior day on Nov. 4 against Portland State.

With a chance to clinch the regular-season conference championship, the Hornets dropped the first two sets to the Vikings. The team re-grouped during the short break and won games three and four before running away with game five 15-7.

"What makes those stick out to me is how competitive we were because we won so many tight sets," Volta said. "Throughout the season, this team, when we were way down in the match or way ahead, we just competed.

"Winning is just difficult, it's just hard, but we had a really competitive team."

Additional reporting by Kelly Kiernan

GAME OF THE YEAR

HORNETS HANG ON TO BEAT UC DAVIS

Shaun Holkko
@HOLKKO23



MATTHEW NOBERT - The State Hornet

Sacramento State senior receiver Isiah Hennie, left, celebrates with junior receiver Jaelin Ratliff, right, after a play against UC Davis in the 64th annual Causeway Classic at Hornet Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017. Sac State defeated the Aggies 52-47.

The Sacramento State football team has struggled for years against its Causeway rival — the UC Davis Aggies — until the Hornets got the upper hand last season in a game voted first place for The State Hornet's "Best Win Against Davis" category.

The Hornets dominated the first half and established a lead by as many as 31 points before hanging on to a 54-47 victory in the Causeway Classic battle at Hornet Stadium on Nov. 18.

"Last year, they blew us out of the water so we wanted to show how we bounced back," said junior receiver Andre Lindsey, referring to the 48-30 loss in 2016.

"The way it ended was dramatic. Davis came back but our defense withstood their heat and stopped them on their last drive."

Sac State came into the game with only one win against the Aggies since 2010. That lone victory came in 2014 as the Hornets traveled across the Causeway to Davis and came away with the 41-30 win.

"We hear stories of the games and fights (that the alumni) have been in with them, so personally I don't like Davis that much," said junior cornerback Dre Terrell. "They think they're better than us and I take that personally."

This rivalry has been fairly one sided. Since 2000, Sac State has four total wins against the Aggies including the victory from this past season.

"(The game) is really important to a lot of people including the alumni and fans of Sac State and UC Davis," said junior quarterback Kevin Thomson. "We try to treat every game the same, but I'd be lying if that game didn't mean a little more than the rest of them."

One of the best parts about the Causeway Classic game is the atmosphere, the players said.

"Last year, both stands were filled and packed," junior safety Mister Harriel said. "I could feel the ground shaking on that last drive. The atmosphere was crazy."

The Hornets almost let a large lead slip away against UC Davis last season, but the players said they're remaining confident entering the fall.

"We have 18 out of 22 starters returning," Lindsey said. "I know they'll be ready and want revenge, but I feel like we will hold our ground and weather the storm even if it goes bad."

Sac State will look to start a two-game winning streak against the Aggies on Nov. 17 at UC Davis in the 65th Annual Causeway Classic.

"I'm calling it now, they won't stand a chance against us next year," Lindsey said.

BEST NEAR-CAMPUS DINING



JOSE GAGLIANONE - The State Hornet

This sushi roll at Bento Box includes shrimp tempura, cucumbers, avocado and unagi.

BENTO BOX WINS FOR SECOND TIME

Multiple locations and half-off sushi rolls help the Asian-fusion restaraunt repeat

Jose Gaglianone
@jozescala_29

For the second year in a row, Asian-fusion restaurant Bento Box was voted by the readers of The State Hornet as the best restaurant near campus.

Bento Box beat other nominees including Sellands, Dos Coyotes Border Cafe, Fahrenheit 250, Mimosa House, and Bacon and Butter.

The owner of Bento Box, Jonathan Kim, said he opened up the restaurant because he enjoys cooking. Kim said he opened up the Fair Oaks Boulevard location about 12 years ago and has since expanded with two other locations on 65th Street and 16th Street.

At Bento Box, customers can choose from options including a bento box, ramen, salad, sushi, tempura, sashimi, and a Korean dish called Bi Bim Bap.

According to Kim, the most popular dishes on the menu are the teriyaki plates and the sushi rolls, which are 50 percent off all day.

Kim said the 65th Street and Fair Oaks Boulevard locations offer Sac State students with a valid OneCard a 10 percent discount on full-price menu items.

Ysabel Garcia, a senior criminal justice major, said she likes going to Bento Box because it is close to where she lives and the sushi is half off. Garcia's favorite thing to eat at Bento Box is the Cali-Fry Roll.

"For one, I like the California Roll, and two anything fried is pretty good," Garcia said.

Bento Box is usually open late.

The Fair Oaks Boulevard location is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The Bento Box on 65th Street is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

The 16th Street location is open 11 a.m. to midnight Sunday-Thursday and 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

BEST RESTAURANT

PIZZA AND BEER KEEP ROUND TABLE ON TOP

UNION EATERY VOTED BEST CAMPUS SPOT FOR GRUB FOR SECOND YEAR

Eric Jaramishian
@Ejaramishian



KELLY KIERNAN - The State Hornet

Sacramento State students Mitchell King and Svetlana Patsula eat dinner at Round Table Pizza on Sac State's campus on Thursday, May 3, 2018. The restaurant was voted 'Best on-campus restaurant' in the 2018 Best of Sac State poll.

The students of Sacramento State voted Round Table Pizza the best on-campus dining in the Best of Sac State poll conducted by The State Hornet.

Round Table won best dining on-campus last year in the Best of Sac State poll, and with all that the restaurant has to offer, there is little to question why it is a consistently popular place for students.

Located in the University Union, Round Table provides a unique atmosphere for the Sac State community and visitors alike.

Round Table at Sacramento State consists of bar seating and plenty of tables, inside and out, so many can come and enjoy the commodities of the restaurant.

The restaurant offers a variety of food such as wings, sandwiches, salads, and numerous appetizers to choose from.

"Compared to the D.C. where i usually eat, because I live in the Dorms, I would go here," Sacramento State student Alexis O'donnell said. "It tastes better, and the wings are better."

Of course a pizza join cannot exist without the presence of delicious pizza to choose from.

Round Table gives you the ability to create your own pizza with different types of vegetables, meat and sauce to craft the perfect pizza for you to enjoy.

The dining area is set up with several televisions tuned to sports channels and network news, making it a fun place to watch the big game while enjoying your food.

One of the biggest draws to Round Table is the option to buy a cold beer to go with your savory pizza.

There are six beers on tap — Stella Artois, Blue Moon, Breaking Bud, Racer 5 I.P.A., Coors Light and Sierra Nevada Pale Ale. Corona, 805, Fresh Squeezed I.P.A. and Guinness Draught Stout are also available by the bottle.

All of these factors make Round Table a popular place to eat and relax on campus and a tough competitor for other restaurants on campus.

"If you're having a bad day or a rough week, it a perfect place to come with your buddies and just watch the game and enjoy a pizza," said senior Sac State student Rigoberto Gomez.

BEST COFFEE SPOT



ERIC JARAMISHIAN - The State Hornet

Starbucks employees Avneet Bassi, left, prepares coffee at the Starbucks at Sacramento State on Thursday, May 3, 2018.

STARBUCKS FILLS NEED FOR CAFFEINE

Eric Jaramishian
@Ejaramishian

Out of four coffee shops nominated in this year's Best of Sac State poll, students have chosen Starbucks as "Best coffee spot."

The store constantly has a longs line of students waiting for that morning kick, or an afternoon drink to get them through the rest of the day.

Students say Starbucks has the advantage of being a well-known coffee chain.

"I think Starbucks is just a name brand company and so it has credibility versus Java City or Ecogrounds," said Sacramento State student Sam Acosta. "Those aren't very name brand, so they don't have much credibility."

"It's like when you go to In-N-Out, there is always long lines for it, because everyone knows that name, and the quality of food they bring," said Eric Portillo, another Sac State student. "So Starbucks-wise, everybody knows it tastes great."

The Starbucks at Sac State also benefits from its close proximity to the Riverfront food courts, a popular hangout spot for students to get food and relax.

Starbucks offers a significant amount of indoor seating, and students often use the space and as a place to study. Students also have the option to sit in the open seating area outside.

According to one of the employees, Mikeila Magbual, some of the most popular items that students order are the iced caramel macchiato, the vanilla bean frappuccinos, and the ultra caramel frappuccino just released on May 1.

Starbucks also serves food as well to be enjoyed for a quick bite to eat for lunch if you are rushing to class, such as panini's, bagels and croissants.

"A lot of my peers do come in here, so I think that's what draws people to it, because we are all students at Sac State," said Starbucks employee Mikeila Magbual. "I feel like that's another reason why a lot of students come to visit our Starbucks location."

BEST CLASS AT THE WELL

ZUMBA GETS YOU IN THE RYTHYM

INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS ENCOURAGE NEWBIES TO JUMP IN

Corina Gutierrez
@Corinag1311



CORINA GUTIERREZ - The State Hornet

Alex Zamora instructs his Zumba class on the second floor of The WELL on May 1, 2018. Zumba was chosen by students as the 'Best fitness class taught at The WELL' in The State Hornet's 2018 Best of Sac State poll.

Zumba has been chosen by Sacramento State students as the best fitness class to take at The WELL in The State Hornet's Best of Sac State 2018 survey.

Alex Zamora, a Sac State alumnus with an undergraduate degree in kinesiology, teaches Zumba classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:15-7:15 p.m., and instructor Ramona Koob teach Zumba on Saturdays from 10:00-10:45 a.m.

"I became a Zumba instructor because I was obese at 11 years old," Zamora said. "I was on high blood pressure medication and I had really bad cardiovascular issues.

"As soon as I was old enough, at 16-years-old, I became a Zumba instructor, so I've been doing that for over 13 years now."

Most fitness classes are included in fees paid at the same time as tuition. As long as a student is enrolled, fitness classes can be taken for no additional charge.

In order to participate, students need to create a MINDBODY account, which can be done online or at The WELL. Zamora said it's a good idea to sign up for classes ahead of time because they can fill up.

"I think Zumba is important because people want to find something that they can feel part of," Zamora said. "It's something that you can just come and have fun, dance, party and you can forget that you're burning 500-1,000 calories in an hour."

Marisol Ferreira, an undeclared student at Sac State, said she participates in Zumba classes every Tuesday and Thursday because it can help with de-stressing.

"I've taken Zumba since I was 12 years old, so I just wanted to continue with it," Ferreira said. "My advice is to just try it out. Just do it."

Zamora said Zumba is a popular class at The WELL. He said he has been teaching it at Sac State for about five years.

Jessica Garcia, a Sac State alumna with an undergraduate degree in biology, said she comes to Zumba classes every Tuesday and Thursday and also does Zamora's total body conditioning class on Mondays.

"I really like the rhythm of this class and the way Alex instructs it, so I just kept coming," Garcia said. "He's very diverse, so you learn how to dance to different styles, too."

Zamora's advice to those who might be nervous to join is not to worry, since everyone else is too consumed with keeping up with him to notice how anyone else looks.

"If you come a couple times a week, you'll be good to go. If not, you'll burn more calories trying to freestyle and catch up," Zamora said.



THE BEST (AND WORST) OF SAC STATE

This place can be frustrating, but it's also worth remembering that what you get out of your education is directly related to what you put into it — and that this idea doesn't just apply to time spent in class.

As we celebrate the Best of Sac State and as another class of graduates commemorate their laudable achievements at this year's commencement, there is less to be celebrated in the year the University itself has had.

As students, we want to take pride in our University. So why does this seem so difficult?

It could be that Sac State needs to shell out tens of thousands of dollars to rent out Sacramento's most expensive building for commencement because the events center students paid for — and still pay for — was never built.

It could be the stunning hypocrisy on display as this institution claims to care about LGBTQ students, yet awards and has as its guest of honor at a banquet the leader of a country where homosexuality is illegal and LGBTQ citizens are routinely beaten and killed, while condemning the visit of members of the Westboro Baptist Church, whose homophobic views are par for the course in Ghana.

It could be the utter lack of transparency, which ranges from the campus police logs only being available online weeks after the crimes reported in them have occurred, to the University refusing to tell students which water fountains had not yet been tested for lead after a faculty-led student testing project uncovered a high presence of the toxic substance in several campus fountains.

It could be that CSU administrators complain about a lack of resources despite a swelling investment fund totaling $3.7 billion.

It could be that Sac State was among several CSUs that received poor marks from a state audit reviewing health and safety.

Repeatedly, it seems state and CSU decision-makers are viewing students as numbers rather than as the point this institution exists in the first place. Rather than thinking of what will benefit a student during their time at Sac State, administrators seem to be prioritizing getting students out in as quick a manner as possible, and with little regard for remediating the institutional failings that allowed the aforementioned issues to persist.

Ultimately, you, those students, are what will make this University better. A better Sac State sure won't come from the overpaid administrators whose focus primarily lies with fundraising.

This place can be frustrating, but it's also worth remembering that what you get out of your education is directly related to what you put into it — and that this idea doesn't just apply to time spent in class.

Don't just accept the "Slack State" moniker as gospel and treat your time here accordingly. Join or start a club. Time spent helping people have fun and be social, or doing so yourself, is rarely time wasted.

Run for office. Take your ideas about how to make this campus a better place straight to the administrators who can affect that change, if nudged enough.

Figure out the magic formula of social media and campus presence that will get students to care about a student government that controls millions of dollars.

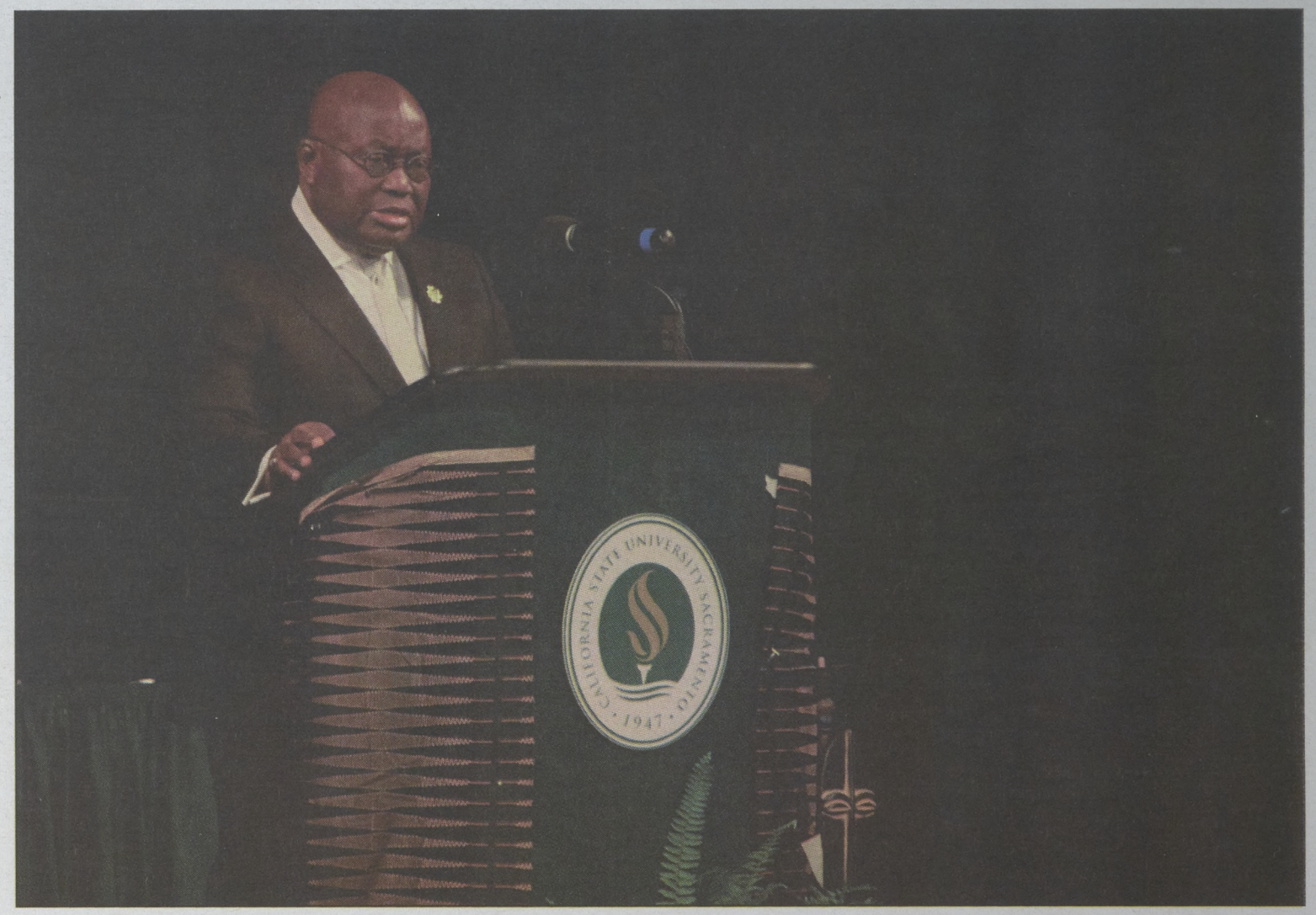
It is OK to take pride in where you are or what you are doing without singing false praises of a failing administration. Take pride in the juggling act you are doing — working, studying and passing classes in the hope of a better future.

If your extended period of years spent earning a piece of paper truly dictates the kind of person you will become, than Sac State students will be resilient, smart, and capable of persevering through an endless amount of bullshit.

Don't be fooled by homophobic hypocrisy

By awarding repressive leader, Sac State welcomed homophobes like Westboro Baptist Church

John Ferrannini
@jferr1995



JORDYN DOLLARHIDE - The State Hornet

Ghanaian president Nana Akufo-Addo delivers his keynote speech following his acceptance of the African Peace Leadership Award on April 28.

Maybe the Westboro Baptist Church members protesting the LGBTQ community on campus today think that they will be welcomed to Sacramento State with a banquet and an award.

Such an assumption wouldn't be that far of a leap for them to make; the church announced its decision to come here less than one week after our school threw a dinner for and awarded a man who leads a government that arrests gay and trans people for being who we are.

And now with yet another high and mighty email, President Robert Nelsen wants to play the good guy protecting the LGBTQ community.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.

If the Sac State administration really cared about LGBTQ students as anything other than a pawn to use to feel good about itself, maybe it would not have awarded a man whose government allows roving bands of community members and police to burn a woman they suspected of being a lesbian.

If the Sac State administration really cared about LGBTQ students as anything other than a poster child for its own liberalism, maybe it would not have awarded the leader of a government that turns a blind eye to people being murdered in cold blood or forced into hiding because of who they love.

If those involved with the PRIDE Center had respect for themselves and their mission, maybe the center would not have issued issued a "no comment" in response to the news that Ghanian President Nana Akufo-Addo would be the University's guest of honor.

It's easy to challenge the Westboro Baptist Church, whose protests of military funerals have galvanized many Americans of all backgrounds to oppose them over the years. It's harder to stand up to the people who write your paycheck.

But a little courage, self-respect and a real commitment to your students, faculty, staff, associates, family and friends who are LGBTQ — or yourself, if you are — demanded it.

Yet many who could have raised their voices against honoring Akufo-Addo quite simply failed to do so and hope you'll forget about it.

> It is hypocritical to treat the civil rights of LGBTQ people as less worthy than those of heterosexuals one week and pretend to be an ally less than two weeks later.

Now, obviously, the members of Westboro Baptist Church have the same First Amendment right to visit Sac State and express their opinions, no matter how heinous, as any other American.

But to use this opportunity to complain and pose as a champion of LGBTQ students less than two weeks after giving an award to and praising a man who oppresses gay people is cynical at best and the most deceitful kind of homophobic hypocrisy at worst.

It is hypocritical to treat the civil rights of LGBTQ people as less worthy than those of heterosexuals one week and pretend to be an ally less than two weeks later.

It is hypocritical to use us as a poster child for your acceptance, progressivism and "woke"-ness so soon after deciding that our basic human right to make love without being imprisoned is simply not important enough to stop you from awarding Akufo-Addo.

So, by all means, bash the Westboro Baptist Church. It has been criticized for its heinous message in the past and probably will be in the future.

But when setting the plates and utensils for the next gala campus dinner, remember that more homophobes may come to our campus than the one you're honoring.



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